STARBLAZER

FANTASY FICTION IN PICTURES No. 256

32p

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CONVICT KAYN

STORY . . . A MIKAL R. KAYN STORY . . . A MIKAL R. KAYN STORY

We at "Starblazer" want to bring you the very best in Fantasy Fiction. To do that we need *your* help.

So that we can produce the kind of stories you want to read, please fill in the questionnaire on this page and send it to "Starblazer", D. C. Thomson & Co. Ltd., 185 Fleet Street, London EC4A 2HS.

If you don't want to cut your issue of "Starblazer", you can copy the questionnaire onto a sheet of paper.

And there's a chance to win a full-colour print of one of our new-style wraparound covers!

The senders of the ten letters which we judge to be the most informative will each receive one of the prints. We want to hear from you NOW!

Name ..... **Age** .....

Address .....

What kind of science fiction do you most enjoy? Please tick appropriate boxes. If you dislike any type of story, place a cross in the box.

SUPERHEROES	☐	☐	**FANTASY**
DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS	☐	☐	**SWORD AND SORCERY**
POST HOLOCAUST	☐	☐	**HORROR**
ADVENTURE	☐	☐	**STAR WARS**
HUMOUR	☐	☐	**DR. WHO**
			MYSTERY

Where do you normally buy your STARBLAZER?_____

_____

Which is your favourite STARBLAZER story?_____

_____

Which is your favourite character?_____

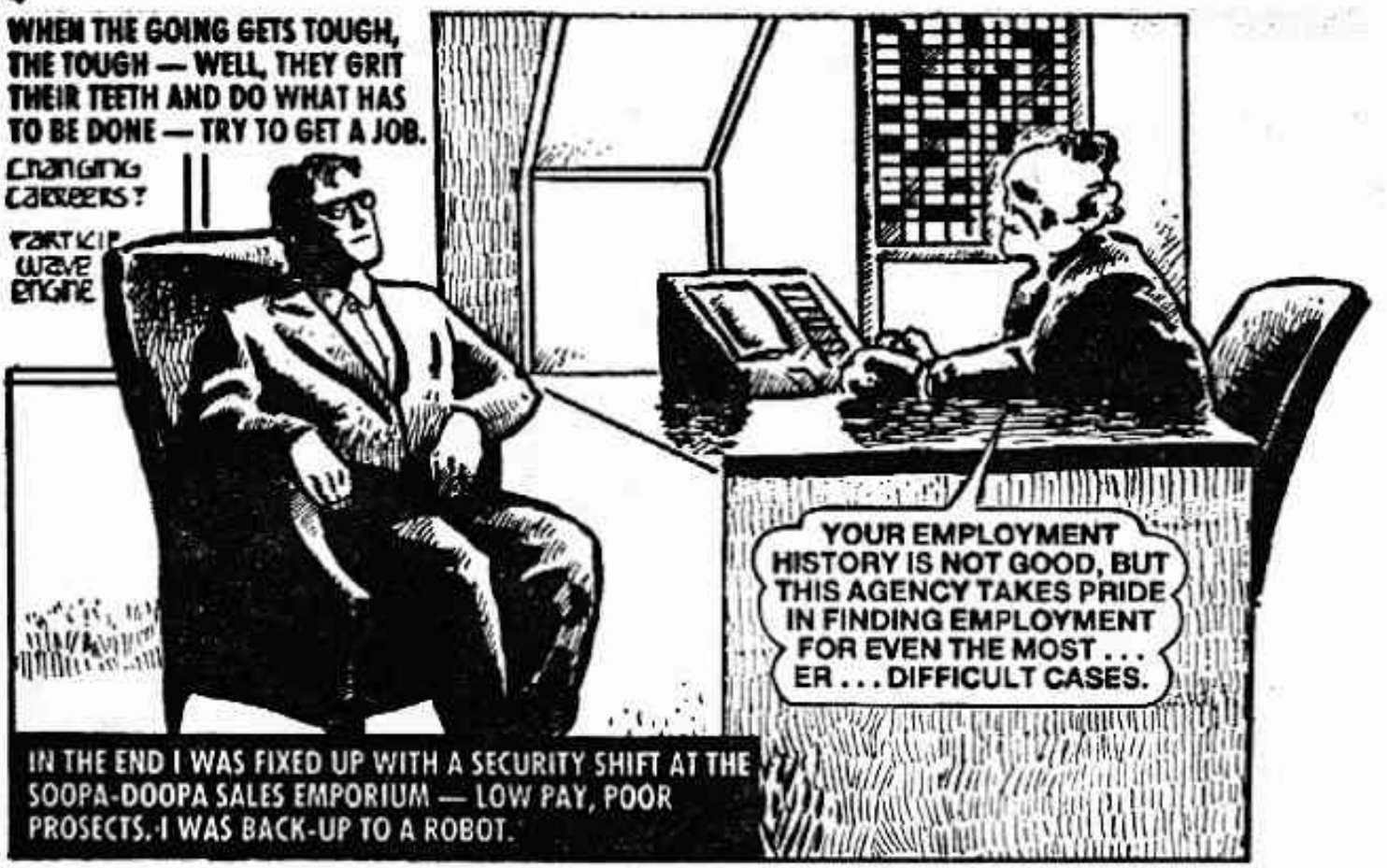
Which is your favourite science fiction movie?_____

_____

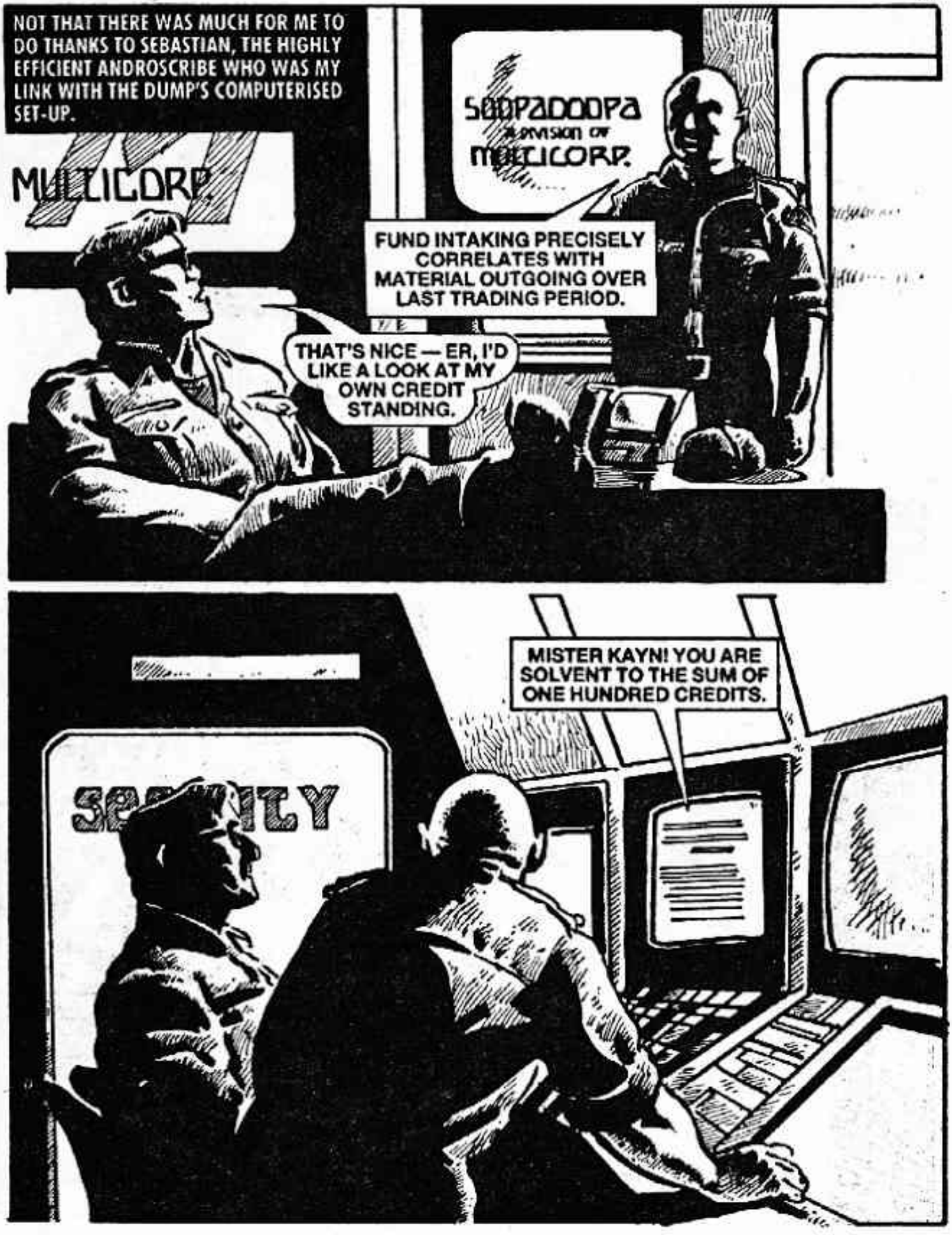
Have you any comments to make about STARBLAZER. . . good or bad? _____

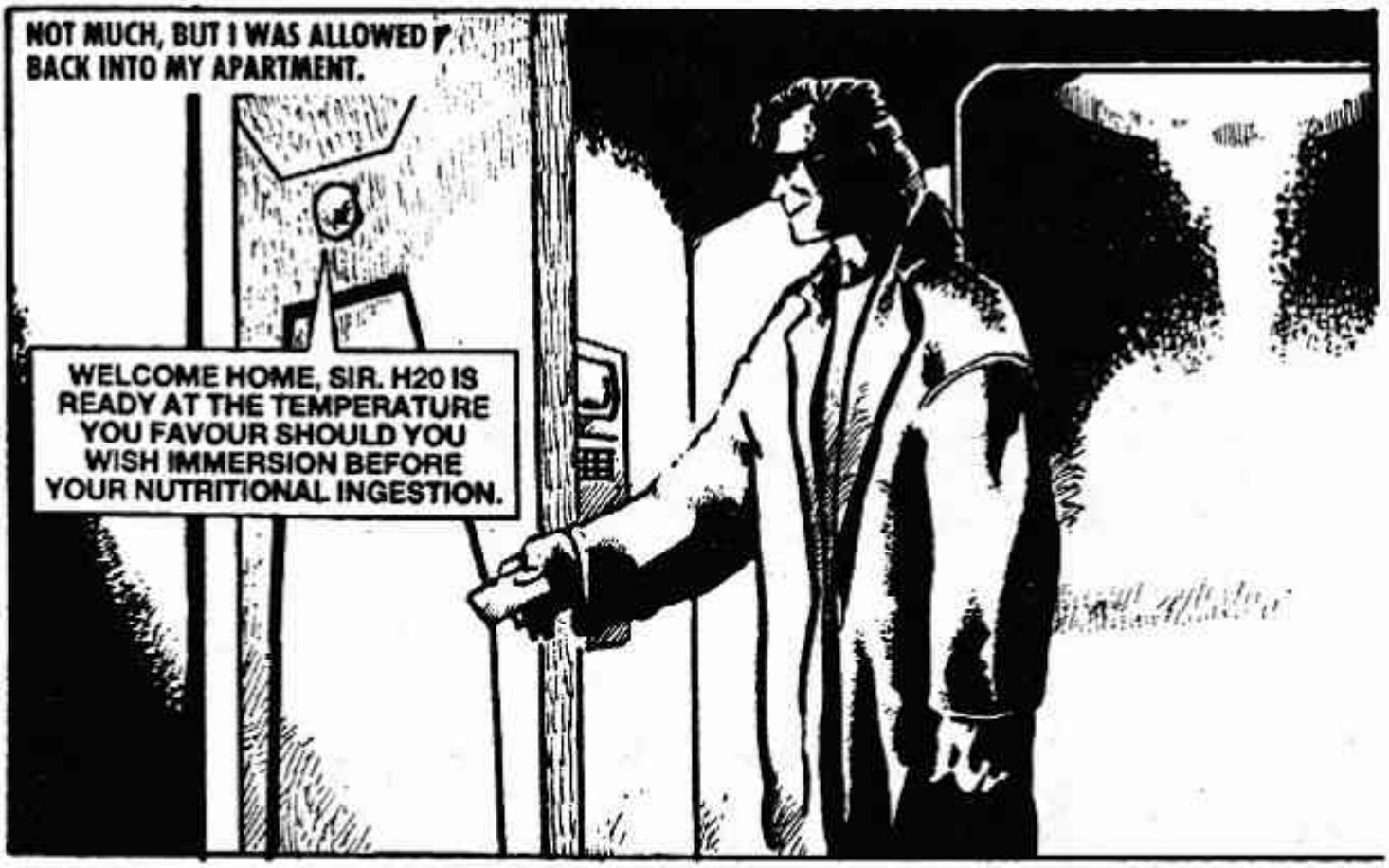
_____

CONVICT KAYN


WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH, THE TOUGH — WELL, THEY GRIT THEIR TEETH AND DO WHAT HAS TO BE DONE — TRY TO GET A JOB.
changing careers?
YOUR EMPLOYMENT HISTORY IS NOT GOOD, BUT THIS AGENCY TAKES PRIDE IN FINDING EMPLOYMENT FOR EVEN THE MOST . . . ER . . . DIFFICULT CASES.
IN THE END I WAS FIXED UP WITH A SECURITY SHIFT AT THE SOOPA-DOOPA SALES EMPORIUM — LOW PAY, POOR PROSECTS. I WAS BACK-UP TO A ROBOT.

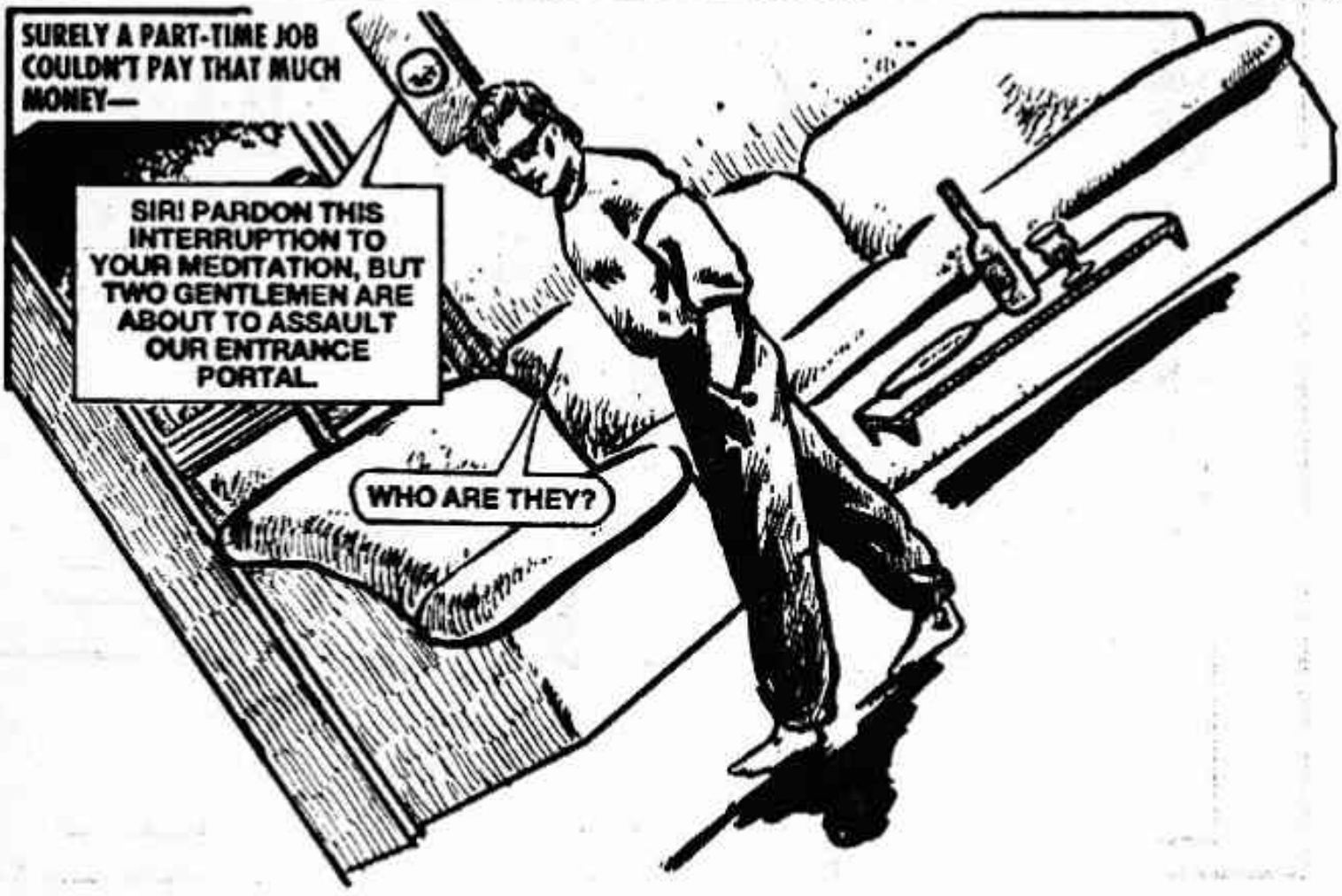
WHY DOES THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN TO ME?

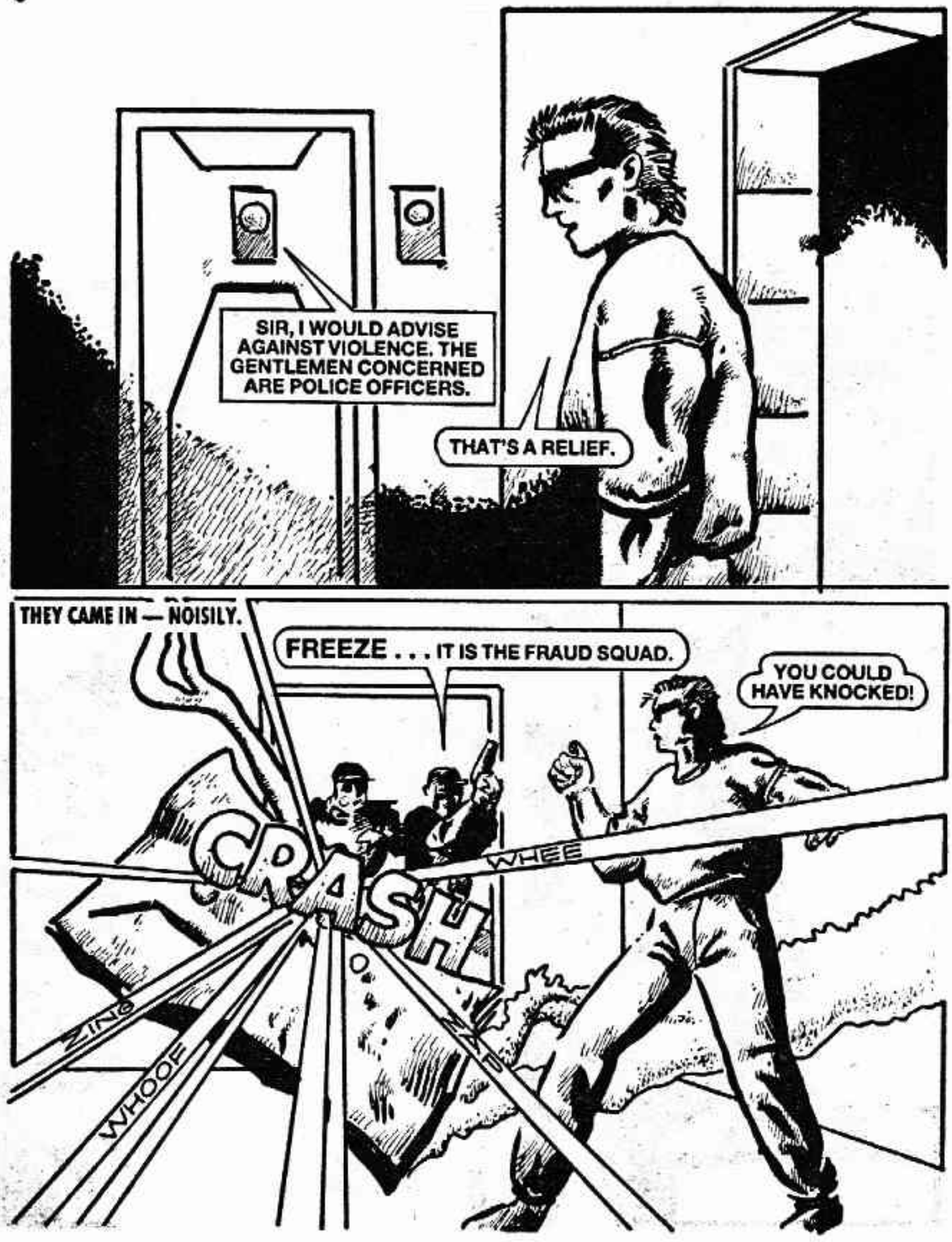

NOT THAT THERE WAS MUCH FOR ME TO DO THANKS TO SEBASTIAN, THE HIGHLY EFFICIENT ANDROSCRIBE WHO WAS MY LINK WITH THE DUMP'S COMPUTERISED SET-UP.
MULTICORP
SOOPADOOPA
A DIVISION OF
MULTICORP.
FUND INTAKING PRECISELY CORRELATES WITH MATERIAL OUTGOING OVER LAST TRADING PERIOD.
THAT'S NICE — ER, I'D LIKE A LOOK AT MY OWN CREDIT STANDING.
MISTER KAYN! YOU ARE SOLVENT TO THE SUM OF ONE HUNDRED CREDITS.


NOT MUCH, BUT I WAS ALLOWED BACK INTO MY APARTMENT.
WELCOME HOME, SIR. H20 IS READY AT THE TEMPERATURE YOU FAVOUR SHOULD YOU WISH IMMERSION BEFORE YOUR NUTRITIONAL INGESTION.

AFTER DINNER I DECIDED TO PAY A FEW BILLS — IT KEPT PEOPLE OFF MY BACK, AND MY LEGS IN ONE PIECE.
FISCAL MODE — ACCOUNT BALANCE, PLEASE.
CERTAINLY, SIR.

ONE MILLION, TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY THREE CREDITS. I AM EMPOWERED TO OFFER FINANCIAL ADVICE TO ENABLE YOU TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF THIS INCREASE IN FUNDING.
WH . . . WHAT?


SURELY A PART-TIME JOB COULDN'T PAY THAT MUCH MONEY—
SIR! PARDON THIS INTERRUPTION TO YOUR MEDITATION, BUT TWO GENTLEMEN ARE ABOUT TO ASSAULT OUR ENTRANCE PORTAL.
WHO ARE THEY?


SIR, I WOULD ADVISE AGAINST VIOLENCE. THE GENTLEMEN CONCERNED ARE POLICE OFFICERS.
THAT'S A RELIEF.
THEY CAME IN — NOISILY.
FREEZE . . . IT IS THE FRAUD SQUAD.
YOU COULD HAVE KNOCKED!
CRASH
WHEE
ZING
WHOOF
ZAP

I THOUGHT HAVING A MYSTERY MILLION CREDS WAS BAD . . . BUT THINGS WERE ABOUT TO GET WORSE.
UB-40
SUPPOSE WE TALK QUIETLY AND SENSIBLY ABOUT WHY YOU BLAST INTO MY APARTMENT INSTEAD OF POLITELY REQUESTING ADMISSION.
SO COOL, AIN'T HE? SO SURE OF HIMSELF.
RIGHT, YOU THIEVING MALCONTENT.
I DIDN'T LIKE THEIR NOTION OF A QUIET AND SENSIBLE TALK, SO I DUCKED . . .

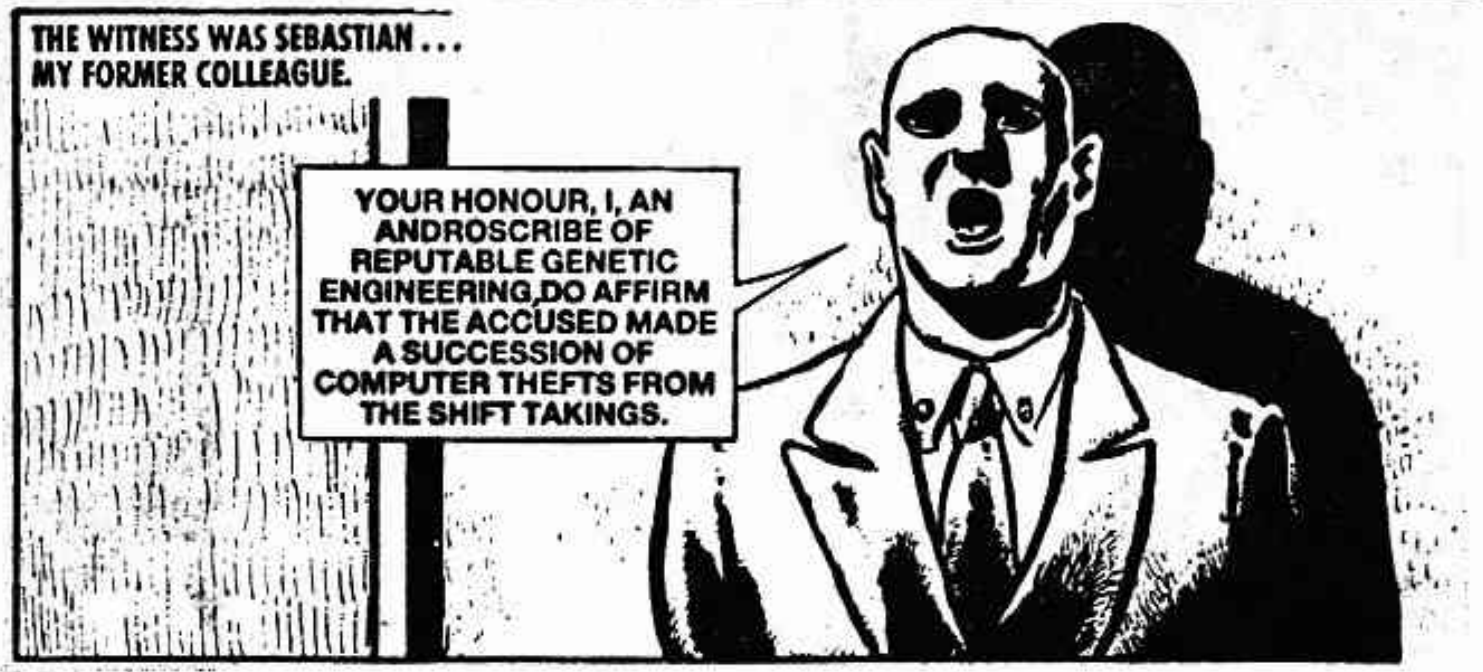
. . . THEN TALKED BACK IN THE SAME STYLE.
B-52
NOW THAT I'VE SAID MY PIECE, MAYBE SOMEBODY MORE SENSIBLE WILL LISTEN.
I'D BETTER DELIVER THEM TO THE LOCAL NICK AND FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON.
REPAIR OF PORTAL WILL BE INITIATED. I TRUST YOU AND THE GENTLEMEN HAVE A PLEASANT EVENING.

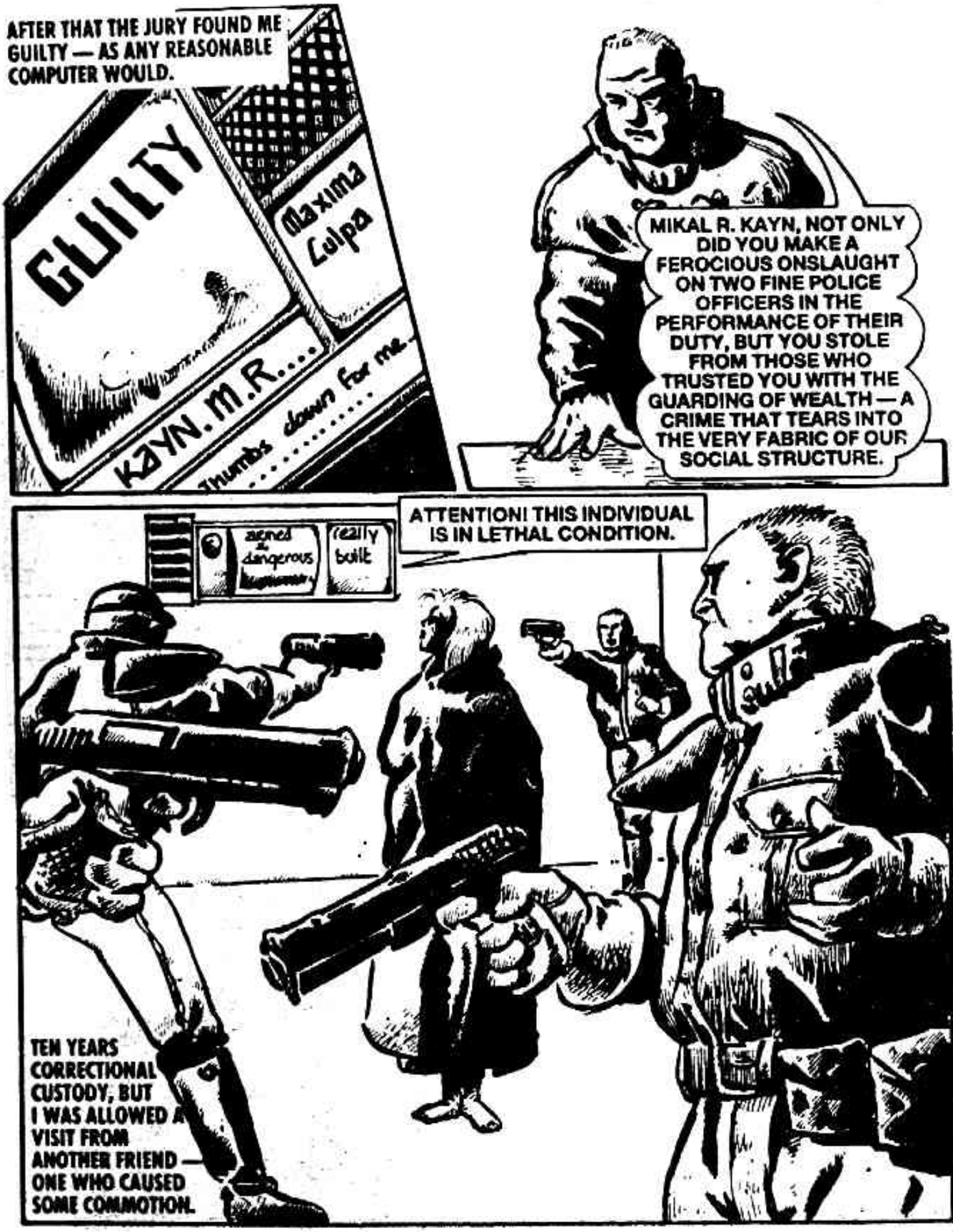
SUDDENLY I'M A MILLIONAIRE AND GETTING VISITS FROM HARDCASE COPS WHO CALL ME A THIEVING MALCONTENT! LOOKS TO ME LIKE SOMEBODY HAS MADE A MISTAKE.
THE MISTAKE TURNED OUT TO BE MINE.
EVENING ALL! THERE'S A COUPLE OF YOUR BOYS OUTSIDE IN MY FLIVVER IF YOU'D LIKE TO COLLECT THEM.
IT'S KAYN! GET HIM!
POLICE

I WAS GOT WITH A STANDARD ISSUE POLICE OCTO-RESTRAINER —
WHAP!
HEY! WHAT THE—
BAD, WORSE . . . NOW THINGS WERE EVEN WORSER.
F-14
MIKAL R. KAYN, YOU ARE ARRESTED ON CHARGES OF GRAND AND PETTY LARCENY FROM YOUR EMPLOYERS, SOOPA-DOOPA EMPORIUM.

I WAS ALLOWED A LAWYER.
I AM INNOCENT!
OLDING
CELL Nº 151
FORCE FIELD LOCK
MY BOY, I BELIEVE YOU. DO I LOOK THE KIND WHO WOULD DEFEND ONES SHE BELIEVED GUILTY? MY FEE IS TEN PER CENT OF YOUR ILL-GOTTEN GAINS.
I WAS ALLOWED A VISIT BY OLD FRIENDS — POP PERZ, THE ERRATIC ELECTRONICS GENIUS, AND MARTY, MY BUDDY OF COP DAYS.
I KNOW YOU ARE INNOCENT, KAYN. YOU JUST DON'T HAVE THE BRAINS TO PULL OFF SUCH A FRAUD.
YOU HAVE ANOTHER HANDICAP, KAYN — YOU'RE HONEST!

WHICH WAS COMFORTING . . . UNTIL IT CAME TO MY DAY IN COURT.
ANY SAPIENT BEING OF BIOLOGICAL FORM IS ASSUMED INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY — WHICH SHOULD NOT TAKE LONG IN THIS CASE. SUMMON THE WITNESS.
THE JURY


THE WITNESS WAS SEBASTIAN . . . MY FORMER COLLEAGUE.
YOUR HONOUR, I, AN ANDROSCRIBE OF REPUTABLE GENETIC ENGINEERING,DO AFFIRM THAT THE ACCUSED MADE A SUCCESSION OF COMPUTER THEFTS FROM THE SHIFT TAKINGS.


AFTER THAT THE JURY FOUND ME GUILTY — AS ANY REASONABLE COMPUTER WOULD.
GUILTY
Maxima Culpa
KAYN. M.R....
Thumbs down for me.....
MIKAL R. KAYN, NOT ONLY DID YOU MAKE A FEROCIOUS ONSLAUGHT ON TWO FINE POLICE OFFICERS IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTY, BUT YOU STOLE FROM THOSE WHO TRUSTED YOU WITH THE GUARDING OF WEALTH — A CRIME THAT TEARS INTO THE VERY FABRIC OF OUR SOCIAL STRUCTURE.
ATTENTION! THIS INDIVIDUAL IS IN LETHAL CONDITION.
aged & dangerous
really built
TEN YEARS CORRECTIONAL CUSTODY, BUT I WAS ALLOWED A VISIT FROM ANOTHER FRIEND — ONE WHO CAUSED SOME COMMOTION.

CINNIBAR OF BABALON, MY OLD FRIEND AND PROTECTOR.
WHY THE FUSS? IS NOT A LADY ALLOWED THE MEANS OF DEFENDING HER HONOUR?
NOT IN THIS NICK, MA'AM. KINDLY SHED THOSE BLASTERS. NOTHING METAL GETS PAST OUR SENSORS.
TOO BAD, KAYN. WE COULD HAVE SHOT OUR WAY OUT TO WHERE I HAVE MY SHUTTLE PARKED — THEN LIFTED OFF TO THE LIBERTY OF DEEP SPACE. NOW I MUST THINK UP ANOTHER PLAN OF SIMILAR SUBTLE CUNNING.
NO, CINNIBAR — WE'LL DO IT MY WAY, NOT YOURS.

CINNIBAR BREEZED OFF TO WREAK HER SPECIAL KIND OF CARNAGE ELSEWHERE AND I SETTLED TO WAIT FOR THE MISTAKE TO BE DISCOVERED AND MY INNOCENCE ESTABLISHED — AND GOT TO KNOW SOME OF THE INTERESTING PEOPLE TO BE MET IN JUG.
NEW ROOM-MATE FOR YOU, KAYN.
GOGGLE-EYES, I AM TAKING THAT SNOOZE-PAD. ANY OBJECTIONS?
NOT ONE! THE BUNK IS ALL YOURS.

THEN VACATE IT, GOGGLE-EYES. LET ME SEE SOME MOVEMENT.
I DID SOME MOVING.
IF YOU INSIST!
YAAAAAAAAAAH!

SORRY, BUT YOU WERE DAMAGING MY SYNTHETIC FIBRES.
A JOKER, EH? WELL, I GOT SOME FUNNY TRICKS THAT WILL JUST SLAY YOU!

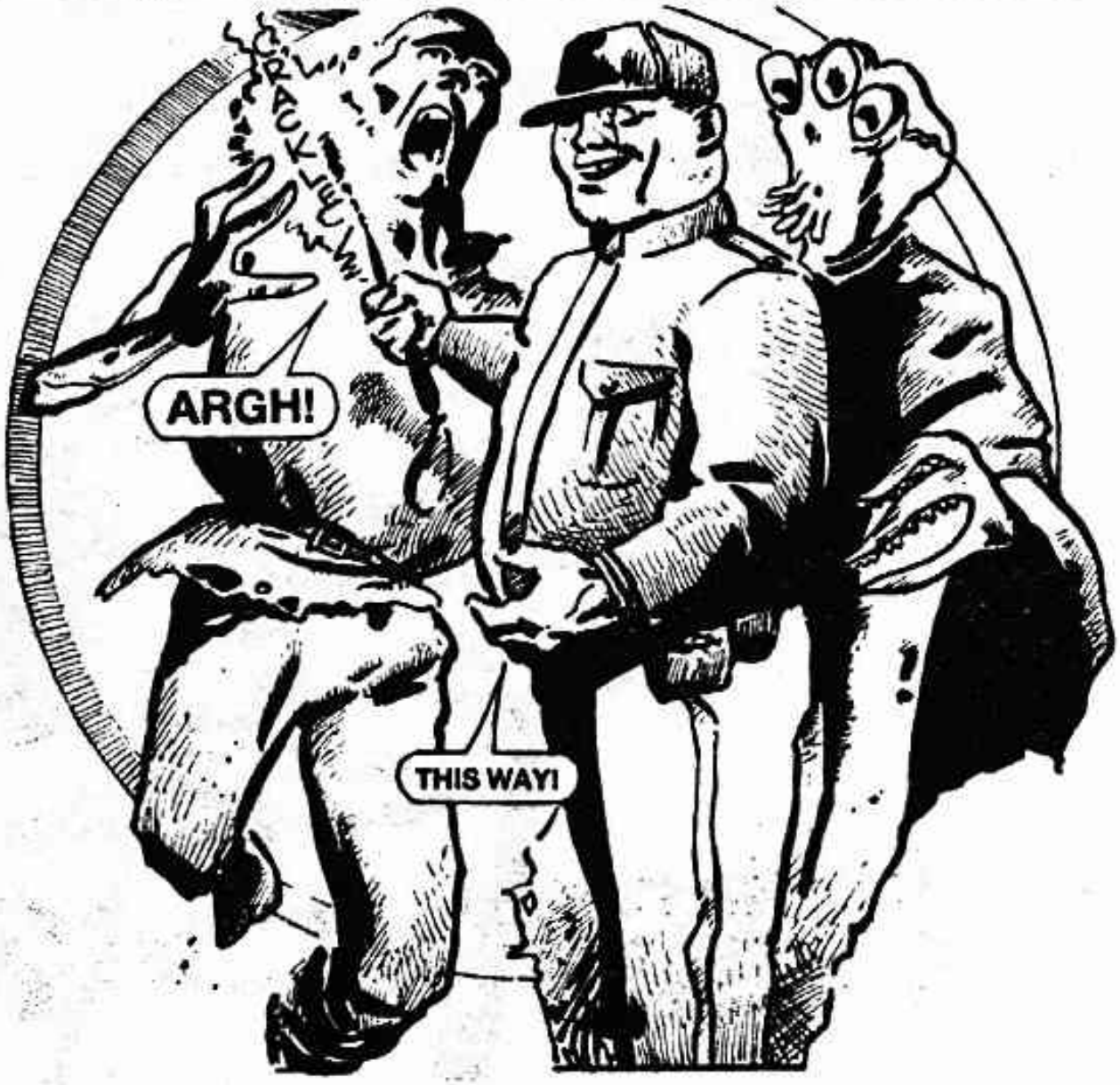
ONLY NOT TODAY. HAW! HAW! GOGGLES, I LIKE YOU.

I SEEM TO HAVE STUMBLED ON A NEW WAY OF WINNING FRIENDS.
VOG VROK IS THE NAME. I'VE JUST BEEN PUT DOWN FOR A CENTURY, BUT AM I BOTHERED? NO, GOGGLES, NOT ME.
JUST A WINDBAG — THOUGH A HUNDRED YEAR TERM DOES INDICATE SOME HEAVY FELONY.

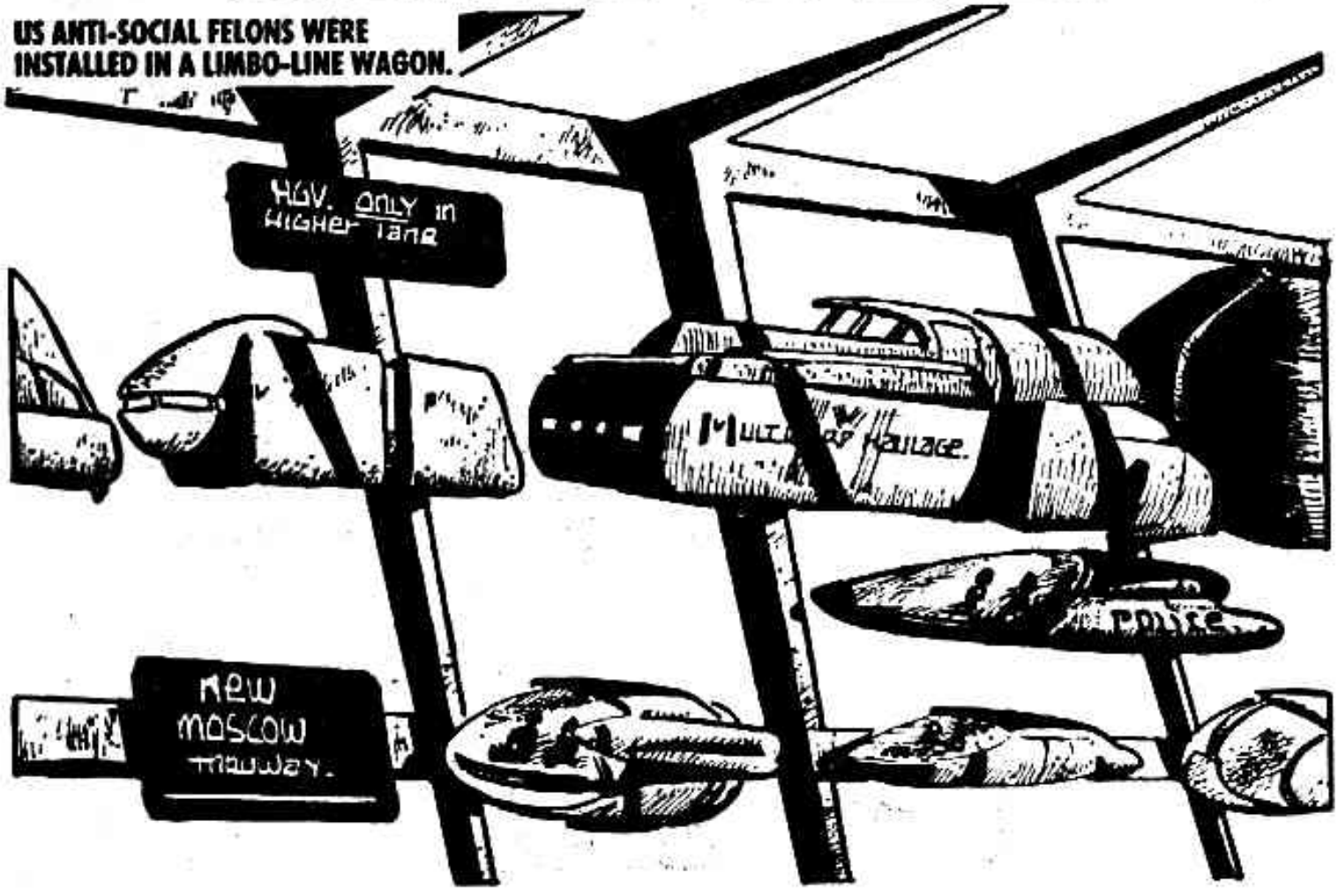
NEXT DAY TURNED OUT TO BE REMOVAL TIME.
LEG-IRON CONSTRAINT IS ILLEGAL.
WANT TO CALL A COP?

PRISONERS READY FOR TRANSFER.
INTERESTING BUNCH. I'LL HAVE A WORD WITH THEM IF YOU DON'T MIND.
GENTLEMEN, I AM FROD, CHIEF PAL OF THE INSTITUTE OF CORRECTION TO WHICH YOU ARE ABOUT TO BE CONVEYED. YES — PAL, AN OLD TERRAN TERM MEANING FRIEND. YOU WILL LEARN TO LOOK ON US PALS AS OLD AND DEAR FRIENDS.

THE CLINIC IS OPEN IF YOU WANT THIS LOT SEDATED FOR THE TRIP.
I AM CONFIDENT THESE FELONS WILL RESPOND TO TRUST — YET LET THEM FAIL ME AND I HAVE ANOTHER WAY OF APPEALING TO THEIR BETTER NATURES.


ARGH!
THIS WAY!

US ANTI-SOCIAL FELONS WERE INSTALLED IN A LIMBO-LINE WAGON.

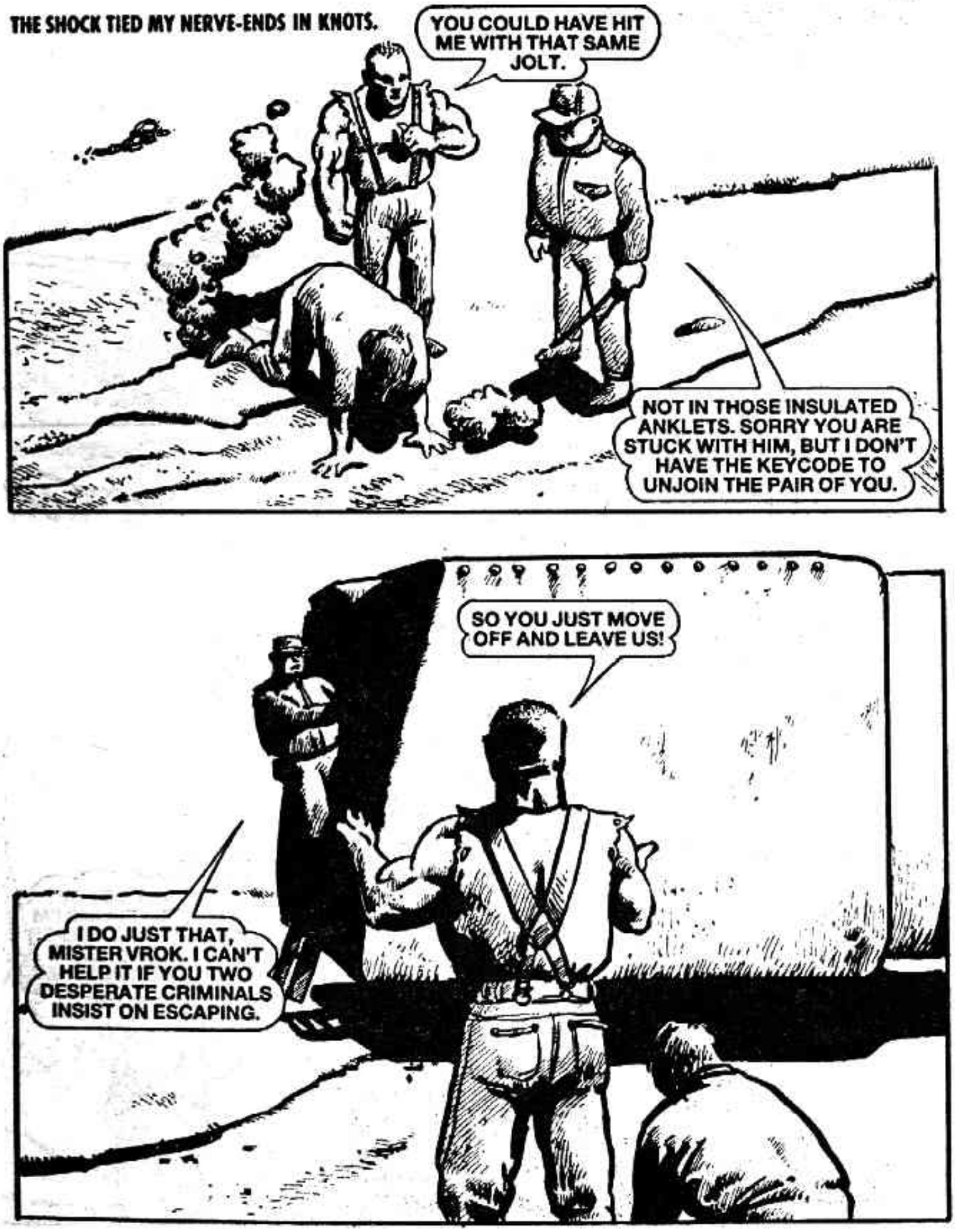


THE BADLANDS, A ROUGH REGION OF HOTSPOTS LINGERING FROM THE BAD OLD DAYS OF FISSION MISUSE, HABITATION NOW ONLY BECOMING POSSIBLE IN STRUCTURES PUT UP ON RAFTS OF PROTECTIVE MATERIAL.

MALFUNCTION, PAL FROD. REQUEST PERMISSION TO HALT VEHICLE FOR MINOR ADJUSTMENT.
PERMISSION GRANTED.

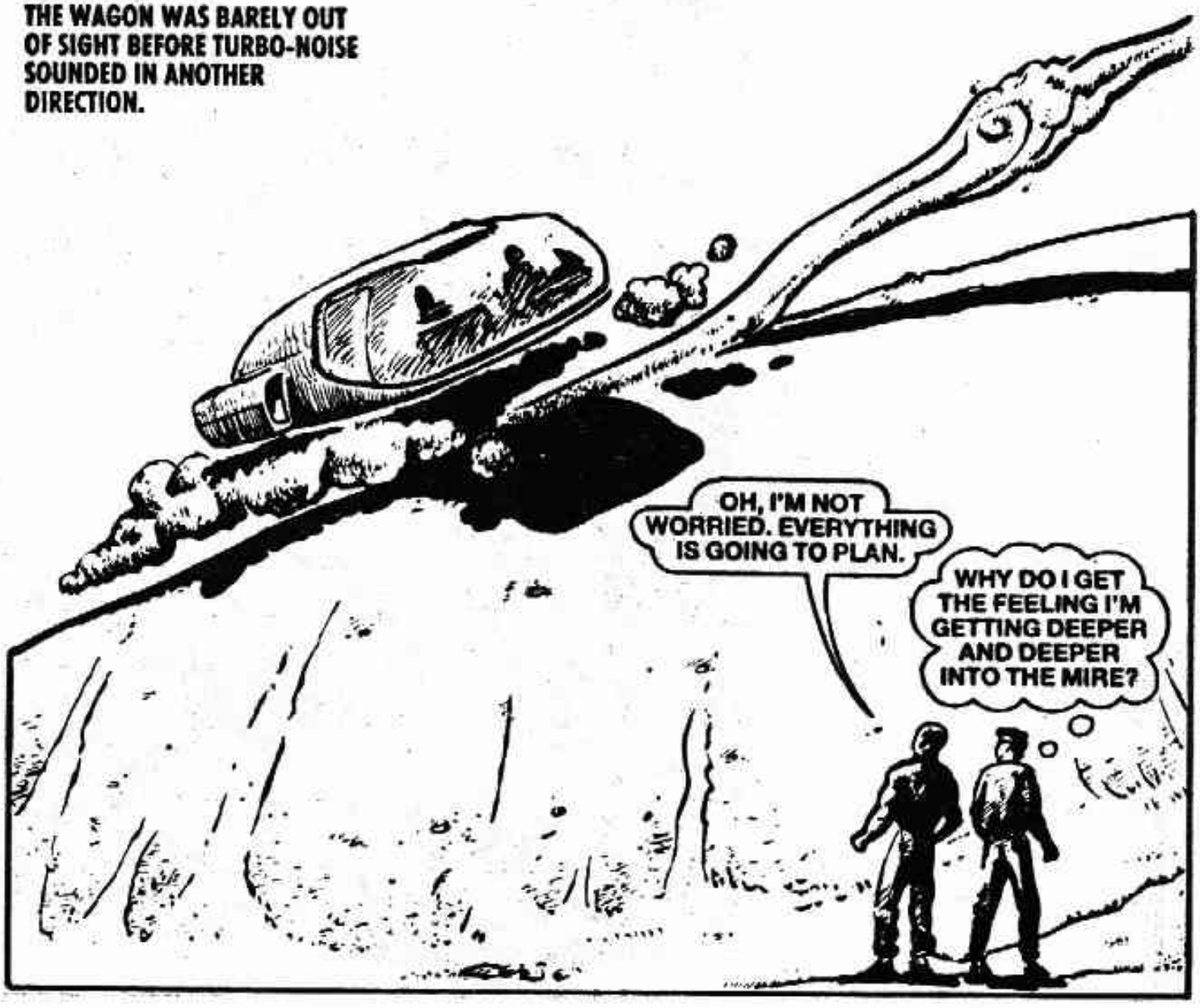
WE STOPPED.
MIGHT NEED SOME MUSCLE OUTSIDE. NOT TO WORRY — THIS IS NOT A HOTSPOT.

WHAT WAS HAPPENING DID NOT ADD UP —


THE SHOCK TIED MY NERVE-ENDS IN KNOTS.
YOU COULD HAVE HIT ME WITH THAT SAME JOLT.
NOT IN THOSE INSULATED ANKLETS. SORRY YOU ARE STUCK WITH HIM, BUT I DON'T HAVE THE KEYCODE TO UNJOIN THE PAIR OF YOU.
SO YOU JUST MOVE OFF AND LEAVE US!
I DO JUST THAT, MISTER VROK. I CAN'T HELP IT IF YOU TWO DESPERATE CRIMINALS INSIST ON ESCAPING.

THE WAGON DROVE OFF. BUT WHY DID I HAVE THIS FEELING OF DEEPENING GLOOM?

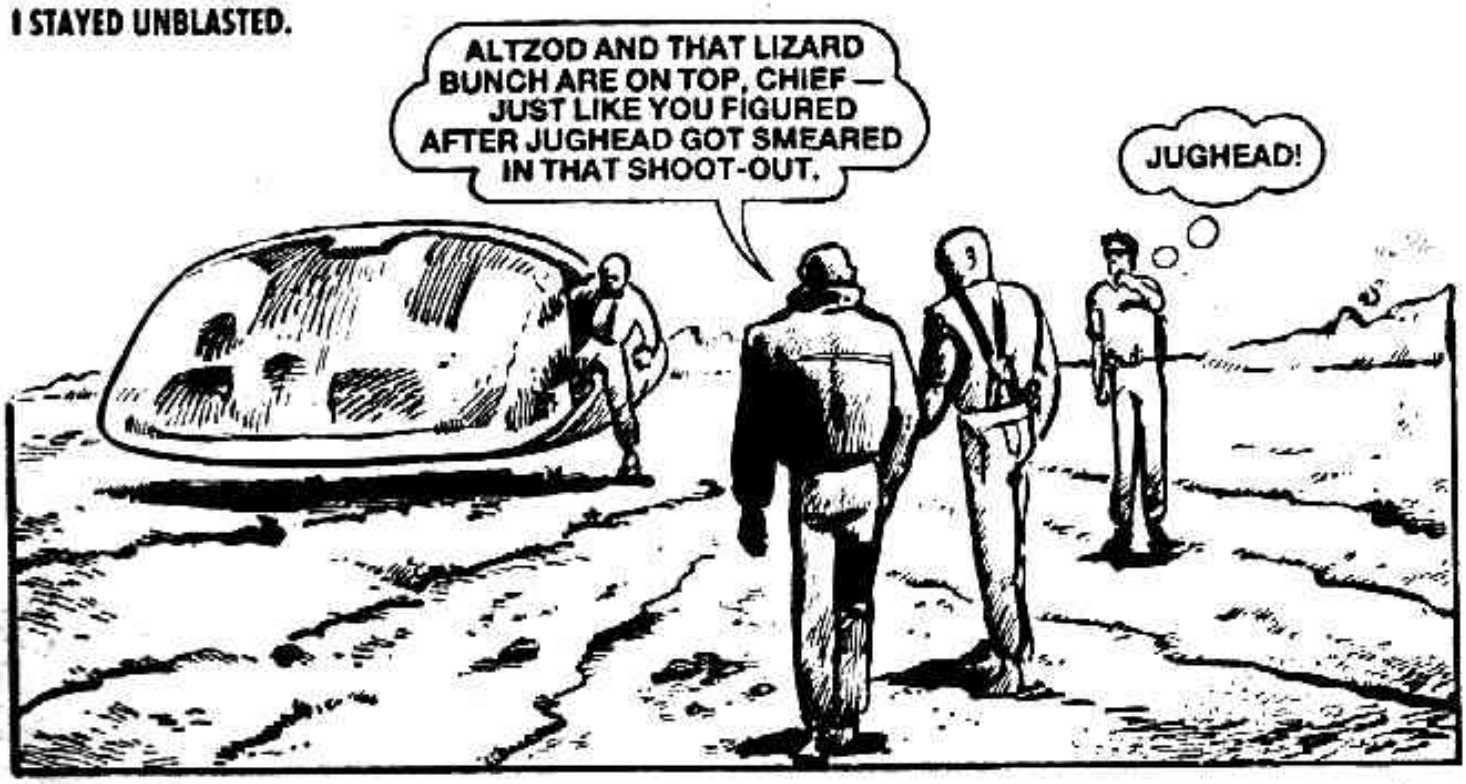
THE WAGON WAS BARELY OUT OF SIGHT BEFORE TURBO-NOISE SOUNDED IN ANOTHER DIRECTION.



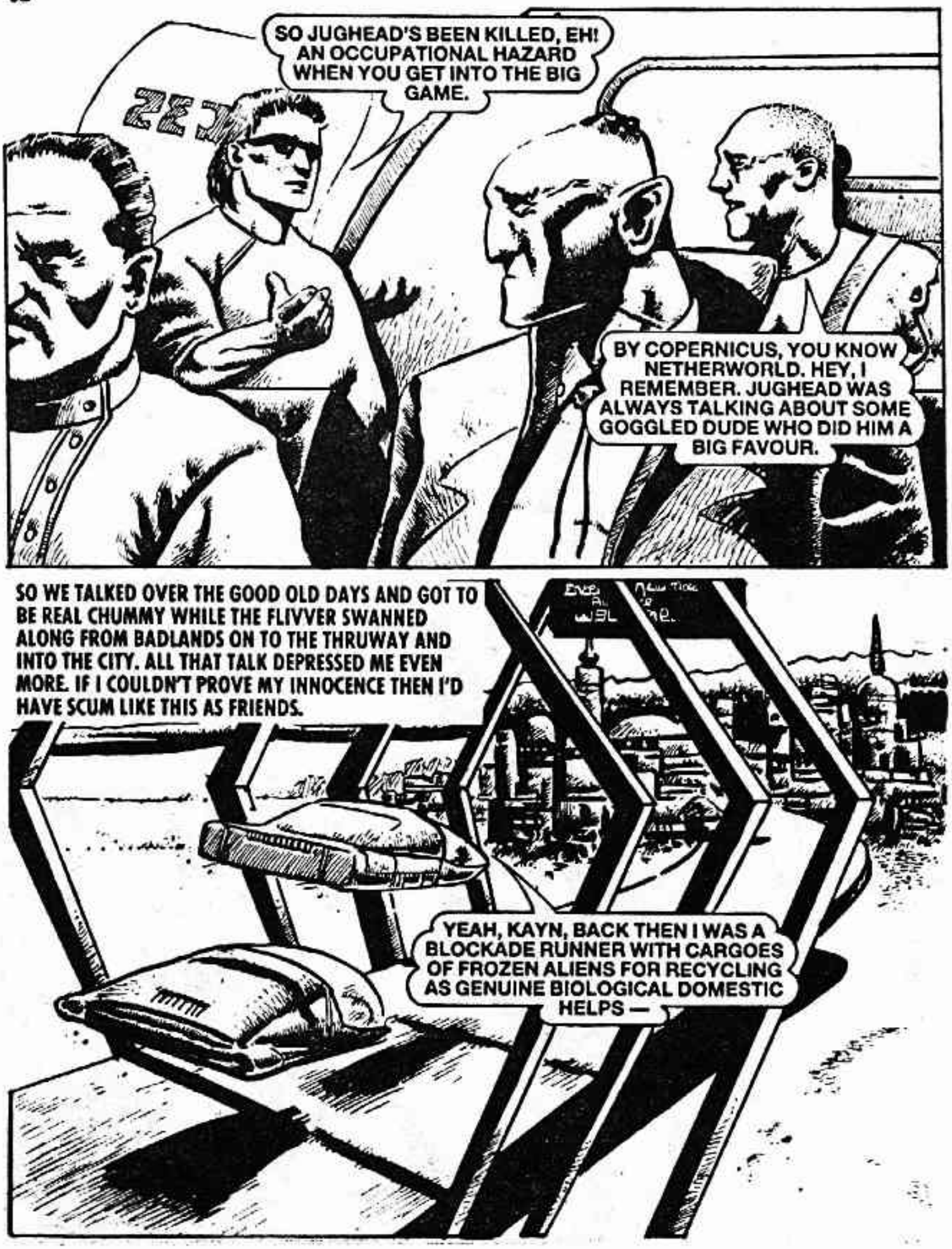
eldubya/iodineprie

WHAT ABOUT THIS BOZO? DO I BLAST HIM?
DOES HE BLAST YOU, KAYN? TELL ME WHAT YOU THINK — AND SAY PLEASE.
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU DO! I'M CONFUSED, DEPRESSED AND TOTALLY CHEESED OFF. IN FACT, BLASTING WOULD BE A RELIEF . . . ER, PLEASE.
HA! HA! GOGGLES . . . YOU CREASE ME! COME ALONG!

I STAYED UNBLASTED.



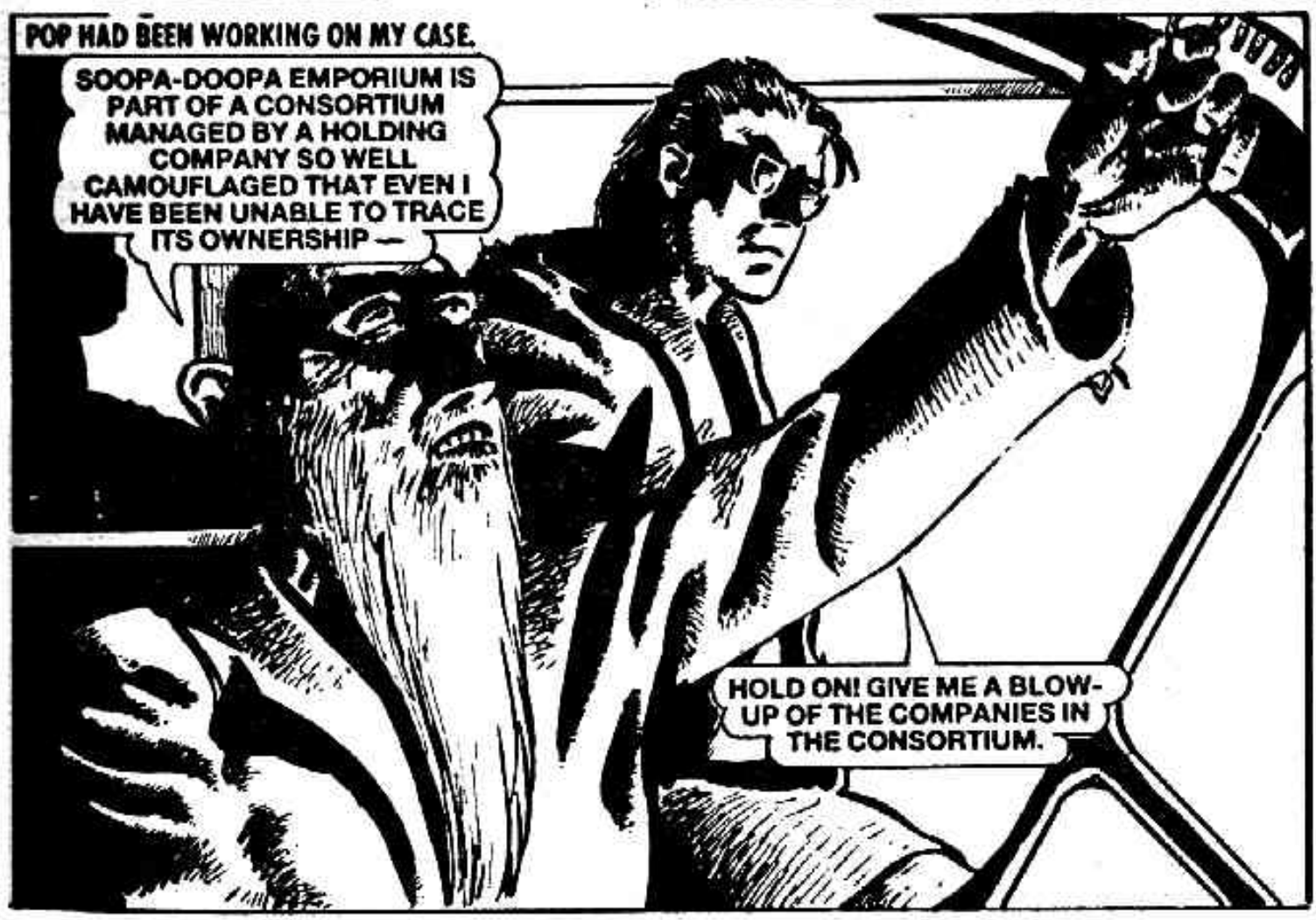
THE CONVERSATION WAS OVER MY HEAD UNTIL JUGHEAD CROPPED UP. I KNEW A JUGHEAD, SELF-STYLED LORD OF NETHERWORLD IN THE ANCIENT WARRENS UNDER NEW MOSCOW . . . HAVEN FOR MISFITS, THE UNWANTED OF SOCIETY, AND THE VERY MUCH WANTED BY THE LAW.


SO JUGHEAD'S BEEN KILLED, EH! AN OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD WHEN YOU GET INTO THE BIG GAME.
ZZZ
BY COPERNICUS, YOU KNOW NETHERWORLD. HEY, I REMEMBER. JUGHEAD WAS ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT SOME GOGGLED DUDE WHO DID HIM A BIG FAVOUR.
SO WE TALKED OVER THE GOOD OLD DAYS AND GOT TO BE REAL CHUMMY WHILE THE FLIVVER SWANNED ALONG FROM BADLANDS ON TO THE THRUWAY AND INTO THE CITY. ALL THAT TALK DEPRESSED ME EVEN MORE. IF I COULDN'T PROVE MY INNOCENCE THEN I'D HAVE SCUM LIKE THIS AS FRIENDS.
YEAH, KAYN, BACK THEN I WAS A BLOCKADE RUNNER WITH CARGOES OF FROZEN ALIENS FOR RECYCLING AS GENUINE BIOLOGICAL DOMESTIC HELPS —

KAYN, THINK ABOUT IT. THROW IN WITH ME. I COULD USE A SMART GUY LIKE YOU.
THANKS, BUT NO. I'M IN ENOUGH TROUBLE AS IT IS!
BUT NOT AS MUCH TROUBLE AS I WAS GOING TO BE IN . . .
WHEEH!!
TOO BAD, KAYN. SO LONG.

NOT ONLY WAS I DEPRESSED, I WAS NOW BRUISED, BATTERED AND BROKE.
JAYWALKER!
HAW! HAW! HAW!
AN OLD TRAMP FELT SORRY FOR ME, AND GAVE ME HIS COAT —
NEWSFLASH! TWO CONVICTED CRIMINALS ESCAPED FOLLOWING A BRUTAL ATTACK ON GUARDS WHILST BEING TRANSPORTED TO A PENAL INSTITUTE. ONE OF THE PAIR IS VOG VROG, UNDERWORLD TOP MAN, THE OTHER IS THE EMBEZZLER, MIKAL R. KAYN —
SO THAT'S THE OFFICIAL VERDICT. ANOTHER CHARGE AGAINST ME IF I'M PICKED UP.

I CALLED ON A FRIEND — PROBABLY THE ONLY ONE LEFT — POP PERZ, ALL ROUND ECCENTRIC.
QUIET, PUSS. WHY AM I NOT ABLE TO PROGRAMME THIS DISLIKE OF KAYN OUT OF YOUR ELECTRONIC CEREBRUM?


POP HAD BEEN WORKING ON MY CASE.
SOOPA-DOOPA EMPORIUM IS PART OF A CONSORTIUM MANAGED BY A HOLDING COMPANY SO WELL CAMOUFLAGED THAT EVEN I HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO TRACE ITS OWNERSHIP —
HOLD ON! GIVE ME A BLOW-UP OF THE COMPANIES IN THE CONSORTIUM.

LIMBO-LINE IS THE PRISON TO WHICH I WAS BEING SENT.
A CONNECTION, BUT NOT UNDULY SUSPICIOUS. PENAL INSTITUTES ARE A SOUND INVESTMENT IN THESE DAYS OF THE FLOURISHING CRIMINAL INDUSTRY.
LIMBO LINE
PENOLOGY: GRANT-ASSISTED FOUNDATION IN BADLANDS INVESTMENT CAPITAL DOG
I NEED A FEW NECESSITIES, POP.
NEGOTIABLE CREDITS, CERTAIN EQUIPMENT, A WEAPON — I HAVE THEM READY AND ALREADY ADDED TO THE SLATE OF WHAT YOU OWE ME.

CERTAIN REFINEMENTS HAVE TURNED PUSS INTO WHAT MIGHT BE TERMED A WATCH-CAT. HIS REACTION MEANS THIS PLACE IS UNDER OBSERVATION FROM ACROSS THE ALLEY.
MOST LIKELY BY COPS AS YOU ARE DOWN ON THE LIST OF MY CONTACTS.
MEEOOOWB!
I LEFT AT NIGHTFALL BY THE SAME PRIVATE WAY USED FOR MY ENTRY.
NOBODY ABOUT . . . NOW TO RE-ACQUAINT MYSELF WITH SOOPA-DOOPS.

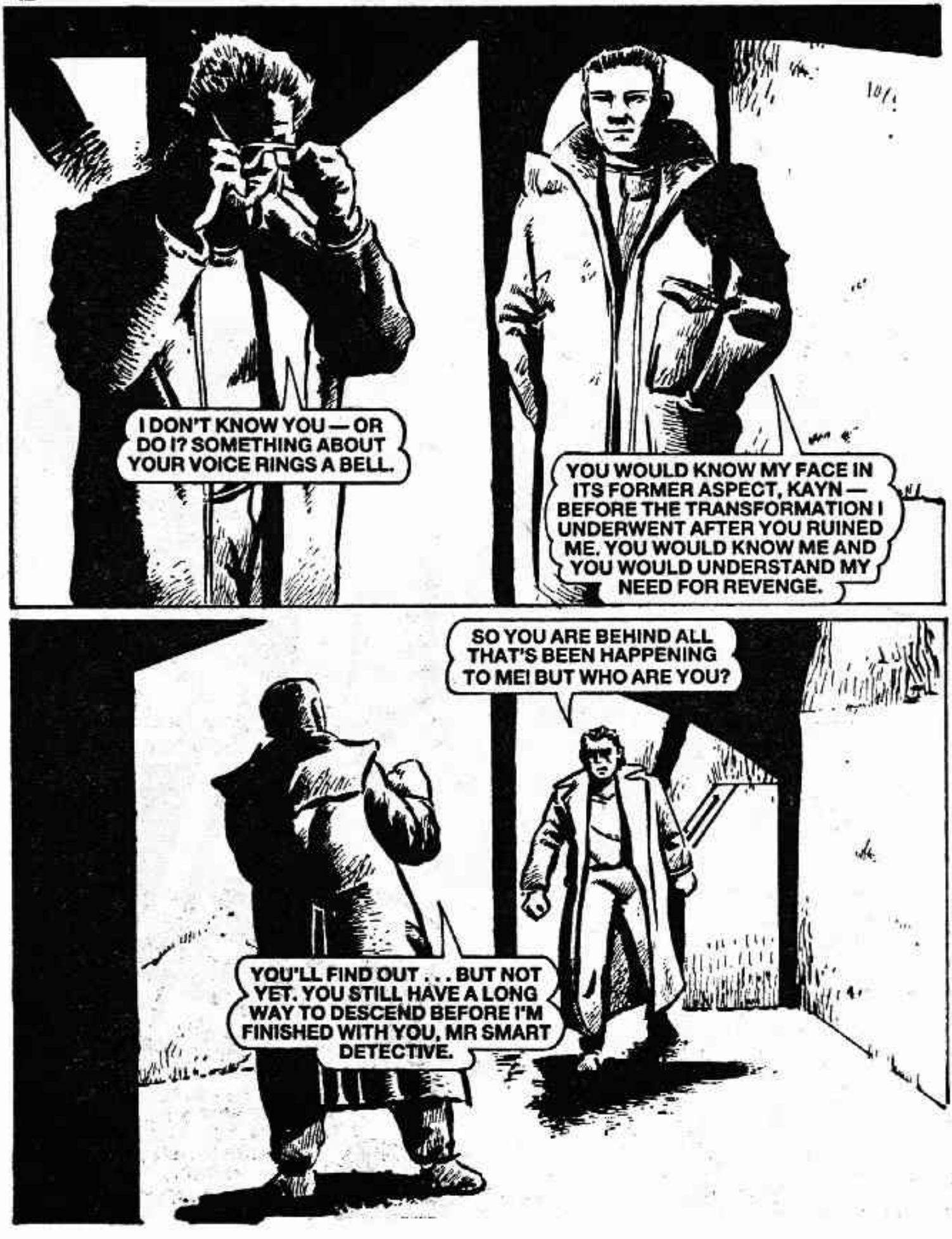
I COULDN'T SEE ANYBODY, BUT I COULD FEEL SOMEBODY WATCHING . . .
MUST BE IMAGINING IT. COPS WOULDN'T TAIL ME — THEY'D JUST PICK ME UP.
MY OLD JOB AT SOOPA-DOOPA MEANT I KNEW HOW TO BREAK IN WITHOUT SETTING OFF ANY ALARMS.
NOW FOR A LITTLE TALK WITH ONE DOUBLE-DEALING ANDROSCRIBE.
GARBAGE!
AN ADVANTAGE OF A MOSTLY BIO-ELECTRONIC LIFE-FORM IS THAT IT DOESN'T NEED THE REST REQUIRED BY US HUMANS.
HARD AT WORK AS USUAL, SEBASTIAN!
MISTER KAYN! I WAS INFORMED OF THE PROBABILITY OF YOUR ARRIVAL.

CCOUNTS

SEBASTIAN KAYN.

I WAS HIT BY AN OVERDUE FLASH OF INSPIRATION.
FRAMED! BUT BY WHOM, OR WHAT . . . AND WHY?
no
radioacc
materials.
THEY WERE TOO STRONG FOR ME.
THEY CAME OUT OF THE NIGHT WHILE I WAS STILL DAZED BY MY BRAINSTORM — TWO OF THEM, CLONE BROTHERS BY THE LIKENESS.
KAYN, WE BRING YOU A MESSAGE.
HUH!
ANDROIDS!

I LEARNED THEY WERE NOT ALONE.
THAT VOICE . . .
SEARCH HIM!
THEY TOOK JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING I HAD ON ME.
LEAVE HIS SHADES. WITHOUT THEM HE SEES ONLY IN INFRA RED AND I WISH HIM A CLEAR SIGHT OF WHAT IS TO COME.


I DON'T KNOW YOU — OR DO I? SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR VOICE RINGS A BELL.
YOU WOULD KNOW MY FACE IN ITS FORMER ASPECT, KAYN — BEFORE THE TRANSFORMATION I UNDERWENT AFTER YOU RUINED ME. YOU WOULD KNOW ME AND YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND MY NEED FOR REVENGE.
SO YOU ARE BEHIND ALL THAT'S BEEN HAPPENING TO ME! BUT WHO ARE YOU?
YOU'LL FIND OUT . . . BUT NOT YET. YOU STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO DESCEND BEFORE I'M FINISHED WITH YOU, MR SMART DETECTIVE.

I LOST MY TEMPER AT HIS TAUNTING, AND LASHED OUT. I NEARLY GAVE MYSELF A HERNIA.
A HOLOGRAM — A LASER PROJECTION. HE'S NOT THERE!
F-I-Z-Z-T!!
NOT THIS TIME, KAYN. BE PATIENT. WE SHALL MEET AGAIN DURING YOUR DESCENT ON THE DOWNWARD PATH ON WHICH I HAVE SET YOU.
THEN THE PROJECTION WAS GONE AND I WAS ALONE — THOUGH NOT FOR LONG.
POLICE TO MIKAL R. KAYN. WE HAVE WORD YOU ARE IN THE AREA. YOU ARE ADVISED TO SURRENDER YOUR PERSON.

I HAD FELT BETTER WHEN I REALISED I'D BEEN FRAMED — NOW I FELT BAD AGAIN. I HEADED BY BACKWAYS ACROSS THE CITY.
MUST GET IN TOUCH WITH POP. CAN'T RISK ANOTHER VISIT.
I REVERSED CHARGES ON A PUBLIC VIDFONE —
SECURITY ON, BUT THIS CALL STILL MAY BE UNSCRAMBLED AND TRACED, I ADVISE BREVITY AND CAREFUL CHOICE OF WORDS.
I'LL BE OUT OF CONTACT FOR A WHILE, POP. JUST KEEP DIGGING INTO MY CASE.
AFTER THAT I MADE FOR THE NEAREST OF THE CITY GARBAGE DUMPS.
AH, WELL . . . BACK TO THE LOWLIFE, AND SAFETY.

THEN ON DOWN AND THROUGH THE METHANE PLANT IT SUPPLIED.
I HOPE POP PROVES MY INNOCENCE SOON . . . I DON'T THINK I CAN COPE MUCH LONGER.
MY INFRA-RED VISION HELPED ME NAVIGATE A MAZE OF SHAFTS INTO A MAIN PASSAGE LEADING TO NETHERWORLD.
WAR-MEK SCRAP LEFT OVER FROM THE LAST TOPSIDE INVASION.
THE NETHERWORLD VERSION OF FRONTIER POST.
MIKAL R. KAYN. I HAVE BEEN HERE BEFORE.
RETINAL & alpha wave SCAN CONFIRME KAYN. M.R
ZERO CRED
DATA CONFIRMED. I.D. SHOWN AS NON-HOSTILE. YOU MAY PROCEED.

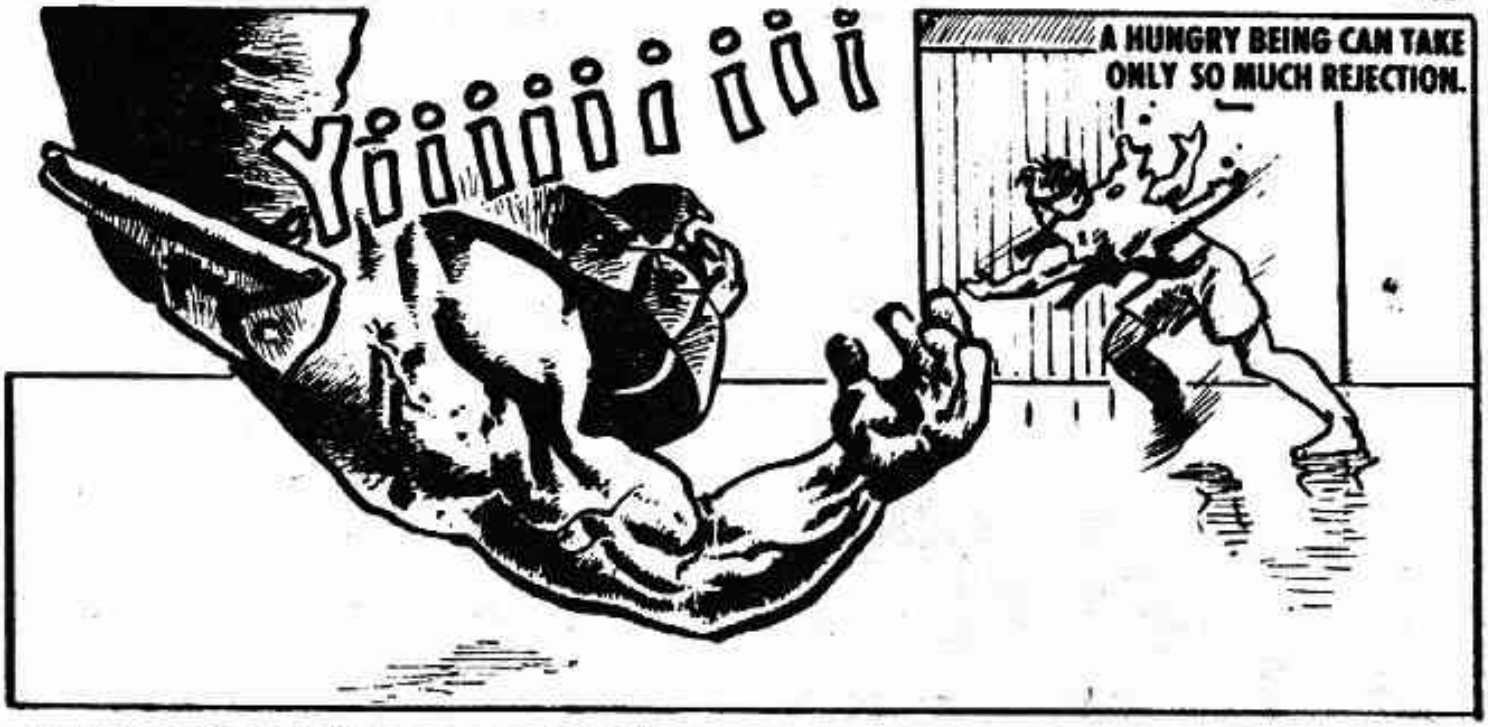
THIS WAS WHEN I LEARNED THAT A ZERO CREDIT RATING MEANT THE SAME DOWN-UNDER AS IT DID TOPSIDE.
I'M A BIT SHORT RIGHT NOW.
TO GORKI PROSPEKT
AN UNFORTUNATE CONDITION. HAVE A NICE WALK.
SO I WALKED AND WALKED — AND KNEW I WAS GETTING CLOSE WHEN I MET WITH A COUPLE OF FRINGERS.
TOO LATE, BOYS. I'VE BEEN CLEANED OUT ALREADY.
YOU STILL GOT GOOD COVERING. START PEELING.
I DIDN'T INTEND VISITING NETHERWORLD IN MY NETHERWEAR — BUT I HADN'T EATEN OR SLEPT FOR A BIT. THEY TOOK ME EASILY.

YOU THINK THINGS WERE BAD — HAVE YOU TRIED HITCH-HIKING IN YOUR UNDERWEAR? FINALLY I WAS ON LOWER GORKI, THE MAIN DRAG — AND THE SIGHT OF A FAMILIAR FACE.
JUGHEAD! HE DID SAY SOMETHING ABOUT PUTTING UP A STATUE OF HIMSELF.
JUGHEAD PROTECTOR OF THE PEOPLE
THE STAFF WAS CHANGED TOO, JUGHEAD'S TRUSTY TOUGHS REPLACED BY THE LIZARD BUNCH MENTIONED BY VROK — SAURIANS FROM THE VELGLOD WATERWORLD.
JUGHEAD'S PLACE WAS UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT.
altzoo
THE NEW BOSS!
MIKAL R. KAYN. I TRUST MY CREDIT IS STILL SOUND.
GET LOST, YOU HALF-DRESSED TERRAN CRUMB.

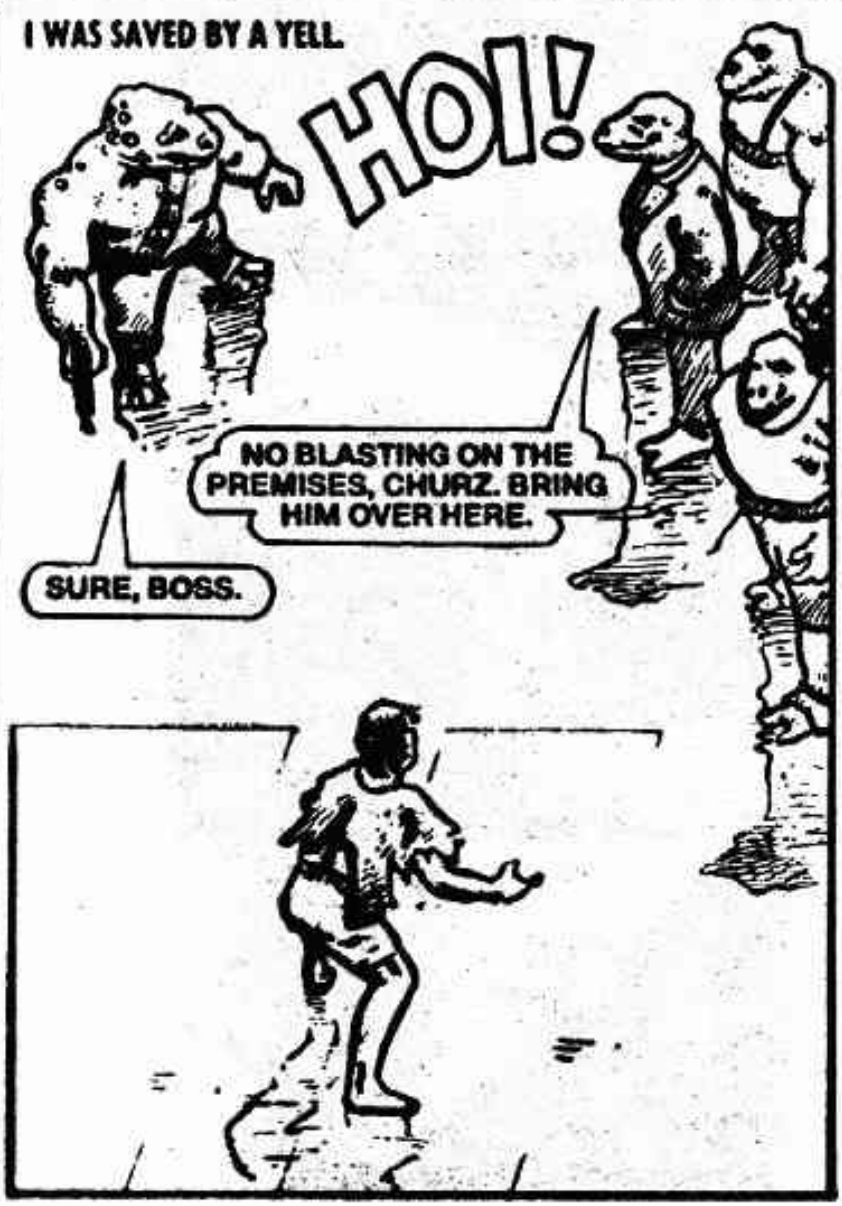
FOOD WAS A PRIORITY, BUT OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS I BEGAN TO FEEL REJECTED, HUNGRY AND MIGHTY COLD.
NO PAY — NO CHOW. BEAT IT, BUSTER.
JOE'S
FRANKS

I GOT HUNGRIER.
estaura

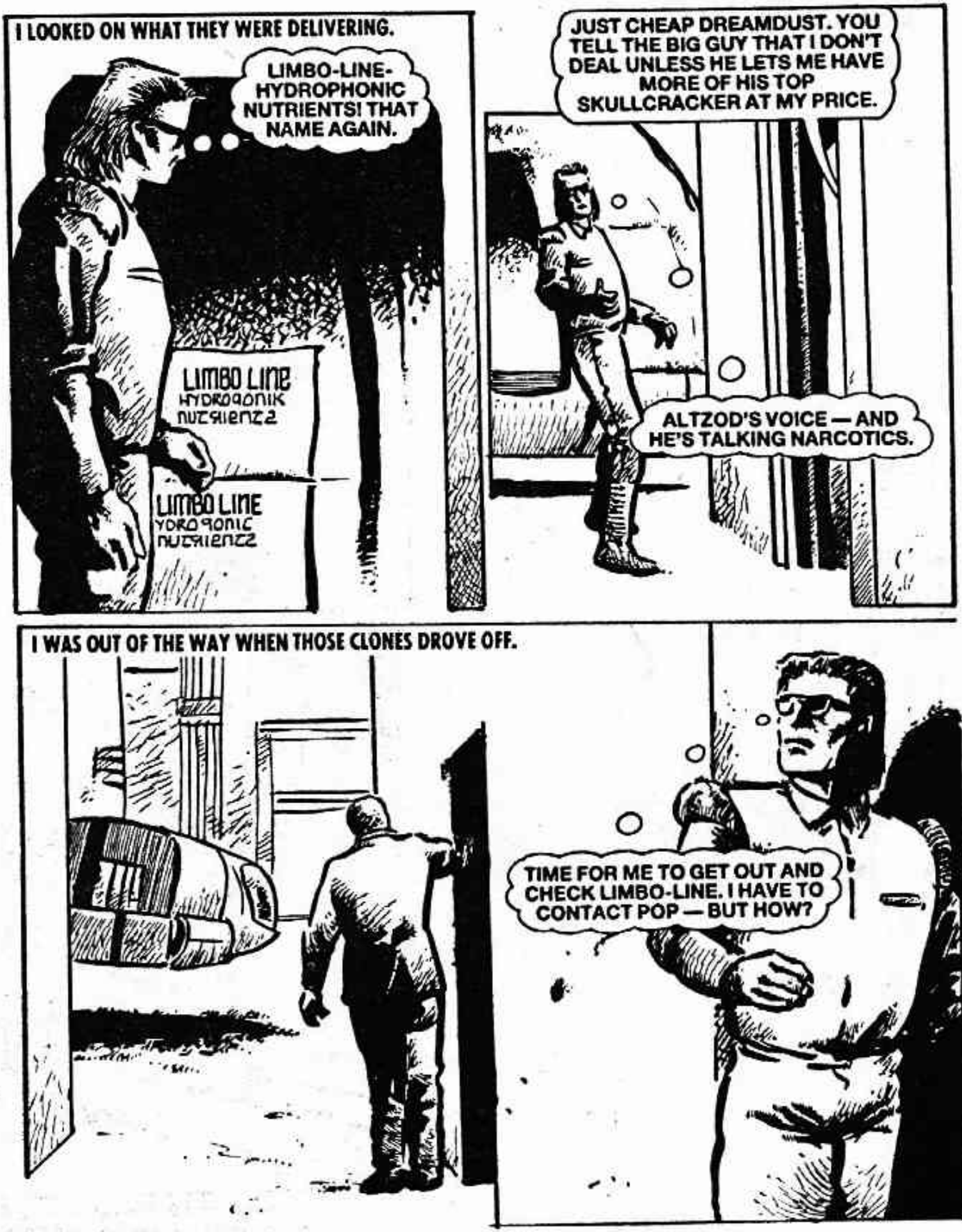
FOR THE SECOND TIME IN AS MANY MONTHS I FACED A BLEAK NECESSITY — WORK!
GISSA JOB, PAL!
A JOB — YOU! LAST TIME I TOLD YOU TO GET LOST. THIS TIME I AM PERSONALLY LOSING YOU.


Yiiiiiiiiii
A HUNGRY BEING CAN TAKE ONLY SO MUCH REJECTION.

I BEGAN TO GET THE FEELING I MIGHT HAVE BEEN HASTY.
TERRAN CRUMB, YOU ARE ABOUT TO BE PERMANENTLY LOST.

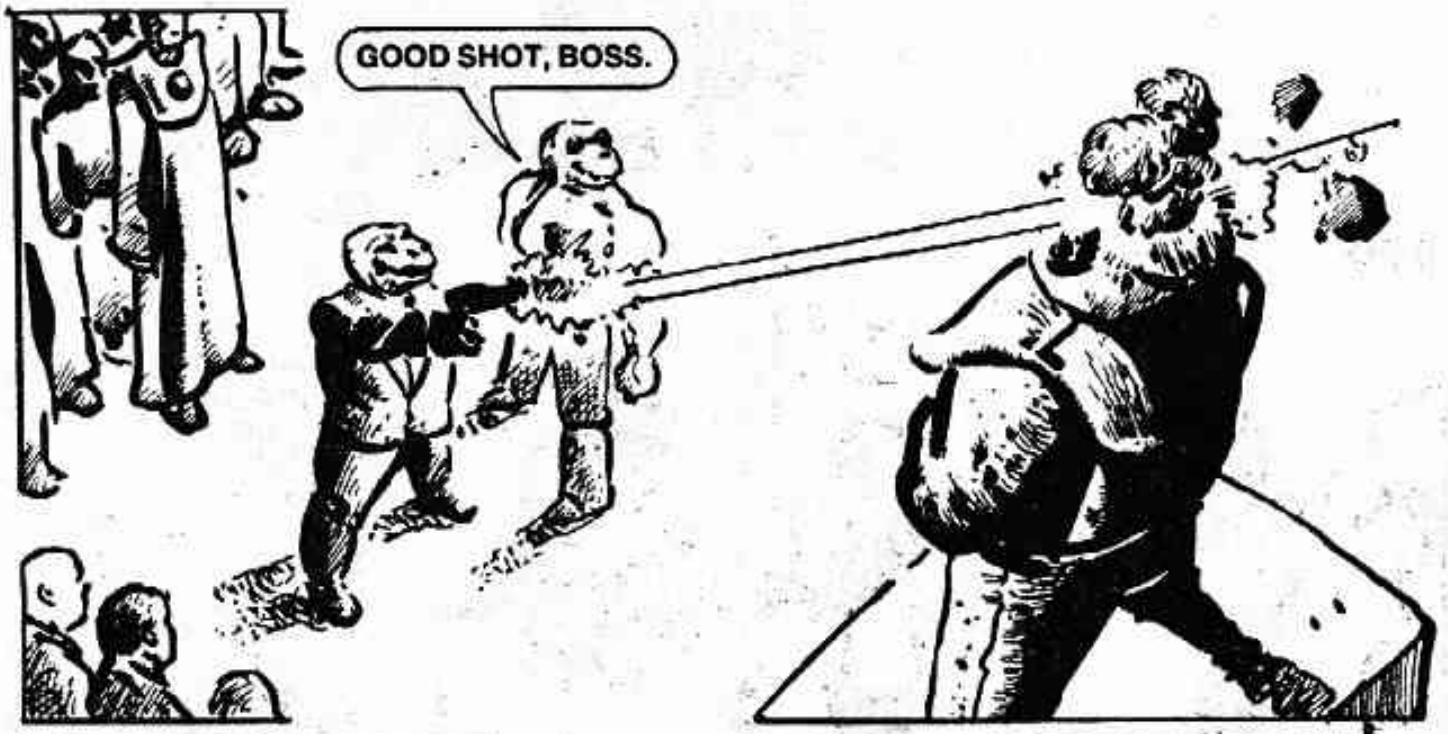

I WAS SAVED BY A YELL.
HOI!
NO BLASTING ON THE PREMISES, CHURZ. BRING HIM OVER HERE.
SURE, BOSS.

IT WAS ALTZOD, JUGHEAD'S REPLACEMENT AS LORD OF NETHERWORLD.
JUST A PUNY, SMOOTH-HIDE TERRAN, BUT I LIKE YOUR SPIRIT. CHURZ, GIVE HIM A JOB.
IF YOU SAY SO, BOSS.
THE JOB MEANT HARD WORK, LONG HOURS, DEFINITELY NO PENSION PLAN — BUT AT LEAST I COULD EAT — AND I GOT A UNIFORM.
WHEN YOU FINISH HOOVERING, DUMP THOSE CRATES OF EMPTIES.
THAT TASK TOOK ME INTO THE ALLEY — AND A SURPRISE.
IT'S THOSE CLONES WHO GRABBED ME TOPSIDE.


I LOOKED ON WHAT THEY WERE DELIVERING.
LIMBO-LINE-HYDROPHONIC NUTRIENTS! THAT NAME AGAIN.
LIMBO LINE HYDROPONIK NUTRIENTZ
LIMBO LINE HYDROPONIC NUTRIENTZ
JUST CHEAP DREAMDUST. YOU TELL THE BIG GUY THAT I DON'T DEAL UNLESS HE LETS ME HAVE MORE OF HIS TOP SKULLCRACKER AT MY PRICE.
ALTZOD'S VOICE — AND HE'S TALKING NARCOTICS.
I WAS OUT OF THE WAY WHEN THOSE CLONES DROVE OFF.
TIME FOR ME TO GET OUT AND CHECK LIMBO-LINE. I HAVE TO CONTACT POP — BUT HOW?

I WAS PUZZLING OVER THE PROBLEM LATER IN THE DAY WHEN LOWER GORKI BECAME NOISY.
FORM UP FOR THE BOSS, YOU MISERABLE CREEPS. CHEER LOUD WHEN YOU GET THE SIGNAL.
IT SEEMED A CEREMONY HAD BEEN ARRANGED.
GENTLEMEN, LET US NOT KEEP MY PUBLIC WAITING.
15
EVERYBODY'S GOING. THE PLACE WILL BE EMPTY.
WHICH WAS THE CHANCE I NEEDED.
THERE USED TO BE A TOPSIDE VIDFONE LINK IN JUGHEAD'S OLD QUARTERS.

IT WAS STILL THERE AND I LOOKED TO SEE WHAT WAS HAPPENING OUTSIDE.
POOR OLD JUGHEAD!
YES, FOLKS, IT'S TIME TO GET SHOT OF THIS MONSTROSITY AND PUT UP SOMETHING PLEASANT — LIKE MAYBE A STATUE OF ME.


GOOD SHOT, BOSS.

I RAISED POP ON THE VIDFONE.
I HAVE A LEAD. POP . . . LIMBO-LINE IS INVOLVED. CHECK OUT ALL ITS SUBSIDIARIES AND DIRECTORS!
OKAY . . . I'LL FOLLOW IT UP FROM THIS END!

WHICH WAS WHEN I WAS INTERRUPTED — THINGS LOOKED BAD AGAIN.
FREEZE, YOU HUMAN CRUMB. I NEVER DID TRUST YOU.
GOODBYE, POP.

WE'LL SEE WHAT THE BOSS SAYS WHEN HE'S FINISHED THE DEMOLITION.

ALTZOD WAS REALLY ENJOYING HIMSELF UNTIL THAT SHOT-UP STATUE TALKED BACK AT HIM.
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY RESPECT FOR THE DEPARTED, YOU SCALY MISFIT?
JUGHEAD! HE'S COME BACK.

WHAT WAS LEFT OF THE STATUE EXPLODED.
THAT'S NOT JUGHEAD. THAT'S THE VOICE OF VOG VROK.
SO YOU REMEMBER ME! I JUST CAME ALONG TO PAY MY RESPECTS AND BRING YOU A LITTLE GIFT — THIS LITTLE GIFT YOU ARE GETTING RIGHT NOW.
THAT STATUE JUST BLEW UP.
SO YOU NOTICED THAT, TOO.

THE DISTRACTION MADE CHURZ A LITTLE CARELESS.
A STILLNESS AND HUSH AFTER THE EXPLOSION WAS BROKEN BY MOVEMENT AND CLAMOUR.
THERE'S ONLY A FEW OF THEM LIZARDS LEFT! WASTE 'EM!

I WENT DOWN WHEN THINGS WERE QUIET AGAIN.
HAIL TO THE NEW LORD OF NETHERWORLD.
HI, GOGGLES! HEARD YOU WERE HERE. YEP, I'M THE BOSS NOW — AND I SURE HATE WHAT I HAVE TO DO ABOUT YOU.
I WAS STARTING TO WONDER WHAT HE MEANT WHEN HE HIT ME WITH A STUNBLAST. THIS WAS MEGA-BAD.
SORRY, GOGGLES. I LIKE YOU, BUT BUSINESS COMES FIRST.
I CAME ROUND IN A FAMILIAR FORM OF TRANSPORT.
YOU! YOU AND VOG IN LEAGUE . . .
NOPE . . . BUT I DID ACCEPT A PAYMENT FROM A MUTUAL FRIEND TO HELP YOU ESCAPE. NOW HE WANTS YOU BACK IN PRISON. YOU SEE, HE CONTROLS YOUR LIFE!

WHO CONTROLLED MY LIFE . . . AND WHY?
FROD LIKED HIS SHOCK STICK. I DIDN'T — THE PAIN WAS BEGINNING TO WEAR ME DOWN.
CRACKLE
MOVE IT!
ARGH!
THAT VOICE AGAIN! WHO IS IT?
FROD, YOU WILL BRING HIM DIRECTLY TO ME.

LIMBO-LINE TURNED OUT TO BE A BUSY PLACE.
OBSERVATION
DANGER: ADDICTIVE FUMES
DREAMDUST PROCESSING PLANT, KAYN. ONE OF OUR MORE PROFITABLE OUTLETS.
BUCKNER
THAT STUFF IS ADDICTIVE, AND FATAL . . . YOU'RE KILLING THEM.
NO . . . THEY ARE KILLING THEMSELVES . . . THEY ARE ALL VOLUNTEERS.

A HIGHER LEVEL, ANOTHER PASSAGE, A DOOR — AND I SAW HIM AGAIN.
YOU! WHO ARE YOU?
WATCH AND YOU WILL SEE — AND REMEMBER.
THE SCREENED FACE CHANGED — AND I KNEW HIM.
MISTER KLUTZ! YOU RAN A MARRIAGE MARKET RACKET USING BIOLOGICAL MISFITS CONDITIONED TO MURDER THEIR NEW PARTNERS AND TURN OVER THEIR INHERITED WEALTH TO YOU.
WHICH YOUR SNOOPING UNCOVERED AND RESULTED IN ME BEING CONDEMNED TO A TERM OF THIRTY YEARS — WHICH BY HAPPY CHANCE I WAS SENT TO SERVE IN LIMBO-LINE, ONE OF MY OWN COMPANIES. LIFE IS NOT UNDULY IRKSOME WHEN ONE OWNS ONE'S PRISON AND I HAVE MUCH IMPROVED ITS PROFITABILITY.
THE SCREEN BLURRED, BUT THE VOICE TALKED ON AND THEN I SAW HIM IN PERSON, THE KLUTZ OF THE CHANGED FACE.
YOU YOU'RE THE ONE VOG CALLED THE BIG GUY!
KAYN — YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MY INCARCERATION. I DESIRE VENGEANCE. A MONTH ON NARCOTIC PROCESSING, I THINK.

THE DAYS PASSED. I HATED THE JOB ALTHOUGH I WAS CHEERFUL ENOUGH.
FAR OUT! GROOVY BABY!
BUT THE NIGHTS WERE HELL . . .
JUST ONE SHOT OF DUST — PLEASE . . .
GET LOST, DOPE-HEAD!
I WAS ALLOWED ONE VISITOR A MONTH . . . BUT I HAD NO IDEA OF TIME WHEN I RECEIVED A CALL.
KAYN! VISITOR!

I WAS HUSTLED AWAY.
VISITOR . . . WHAT'S A VISITOR.
AND DUMPED IN A VISITING ROOM. I DIDN'T RECOGNISE THE LEGS . . .
HELP ME . . . PLEASE . . . HELP ME!
BUT THE FACE WAS FAMILIAR.
OH, MIKAL, WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO YOU?
CINNIBAR?

I WAS SLIPPING AWAY INTO ANOTHER WORLD.
I COULDN'T BE BOTHERED ARGUING.

THE LAST THING I REMEMBER WAS A DOOR OPENING AND I SAW THE ANDROID CLONES.
YOU MAY KILL THEM.
DIE!
NO YOU MAY NOT!

MISSED! NOW I KILL YOU!
I CALL THIS GETTING YOUR OWN BACK, MISTER KLUTZ.
KLUTZ FLED AS CINNIBAR PREPARED HER CROSSBOW —
YOU HURT MY MIKAL . . . I KILL YOU VERY DEAD!

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DON'T MISS

THIS MONTH'S OTHER ACTION-PACKED ADVENTURE

NOW ON SALE

CONVICT KAYN

Convicted of a crime he didn't commit, Mikal R. Kayn found himself doing a ten year stretch in a prison that made Devil's Island look like kindergarten. But nothing in Kayn's life was simple and after a series of bizarre events he became a free man . . . well, free in the sense he wasn't in prison, but not free of problems. As Kayn tried to piece together the reasons for his imprisonment, he concluded the only place to discover the truth was back in prison. But it was a moot point if he, or the case, would crack first.

A MIKAL R. KAYN STORY . . . A MIKAL R. KA